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antagonist, an imidazoline receptor antagonist, a peripherally acting receptor antagonist, a ganglion blocking agent, a drug that has an effect on cardiovascular reflexes and thereby reduces SNS activity, an opiate, scopolamine, an endothelin receptor antagonist, a xanthine oxidase inhibitor, and erythropoietin.

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3. (amended) A method claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a compound which inhibits the effect of aldosterone, such as an aldosterone antagonist.

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5. (amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a chymase inhibitor.

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7. (amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a cathepsin inhibitor.

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9. (Amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a receptor blocker.

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11. (Amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an imidazoline receptor antagonist.

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13. (amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an imidazoline receptor antagonist.

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15. (Amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a peripherally acting receptor antagonist.

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17. (amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a ganglion blocking agent.

19. (Amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a drug that has an effect on cardiovascular reflexes and thereby reduces SNS activity.

20. (Amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an opiate.

22. (Amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of scopolamine.

23. (Amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an endothelin receptor antagonist.

25. (Amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a xanthine oxidase inhibitor.

27. (Amended) A method of claim 1 of treating weight loss due to underlying disease in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of erythropoietin.

29. (amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the underlying disease is any one of AIDS, liver cirrhosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with or without emphysema, chronic renal failure, chronic infections, cancer, heart disease including hypertension and chronic heart failure.

30. (Amended) A method according to [any one of Claims 1 to 29] claim 1 wherein the patient has idiopathic cachexia.

31. (Amended) A method according to [any one of Claims 1 to 29] claim 1 wherein the underlying disease is chronic heart failure and the patient has cardiac cachexia.

Please cancel claims 32-34. ✓

35. (Amended) A method of treating or preventing weight loss due to the [ageing] aging process in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an agent which reduces sympathetic nervous system activity.

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36. (Amended) A method of treating or preventing weight loss due to the [ageing] aging process in a patient the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of [any one or more of] a compound selected from the group consisting of a compound which inhibits the effect of aldosterone such as an aldosterone antagonist; a chymase inhibitor; a cathepsin inhibitor; a receptor blocker; an imidazoline receptor antagonist; a centrally acting receptor antagonist; a peripherally acting receptor antagonist; a ganglion blocking agent; a drug that has an effect on cardiovascular reflexes and thereby reduce SNS activity such as an opiate, a digitalis alkaloid, scopolamine; an endothelin receptor antagonist; a xanthine oxidase inhibitor; and erythropoietin.

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37. (Amended) A method of treating or preventing weight loss due to the [ageing] aging process in a patient the method comprising electrically stimulating the patient's muscles.

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39. (amended) A method of enhancing exercise performance in a healthy individual the method comprising administering the individual an effective amount of [any one or more of] a compound selected from the group consisting of a compound which inhibits the effect of aldosterone such as an aldosterone antagonist; a chymase inhibitor; a cathepsin inhibitor; a receptor blocker; an imidazoline receptor antagonist; a centrally acting receptor antagonist; a peripherally acting receptor antagonist; a ganglion blocking agent; a drug that has an effect on cardiovascular reflexes and thereby reduce SNS activity such as an opiate; a digitalis alkaloid; scopolamine; an anabolic growth factor like growth hormone and insulin-like growth factor-I (IGF-I); an endothelin receptor antagonist; a TNF antagonist; a xanthine oxidase inhibitor; and erythropoietin.

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41. (Amended) A method of preventing weight loss consequent to a cardiovascular disorder in a patient at risk of heart disease the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of [any one or more of] a compound selected from the group consisting of a compound with an inhibiting effect on aldosterone; a -receptor blocker; an imidazoline receptor antagonist; a centrally acting receptor antagonist; a peripherally acting receptor antagonist; and a ganglion blocking agent.

Please cancel claims 42-45.

Please add new claims 46 and 47.